

Water supply solution getting closer!

The Public Utilities Commission case filed by Cal Am for its Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is getting closer to a conclusion, and that's good news for all water users. There is still a long way to go, but the odds are good that we're on the way to solving our water supply dilemma.

Testimony from all parties was filed February 22nd and the Coalition filed its testimony that day.

Here's what the Coalition argued for and the reasons why it did:



The Coalition's testimony revolves around three key points:

1. Support for Cal Am's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project;
2. Support for the PUC's expedited processing of the application for the project;
3. Encouraging the PUC to approve and order a desal plant capable of solving our decades-old water supply dilemma.

The Coalition was happy to join the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority (MPRWA), the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) and the County of Monterey in supporting the water supply solution proposed by Cal Am. The Coalition believes that at long last there is a strong and broad consensus to solve our problem as soon as possible.

The Coalition urged the Commission to continue to expedite its process for deliberation and approval of Cal Am's application. The drastic Cease and Desist Order cutbacks ordered by the State Water Resources Control Board are rapidly approaching. The cutback, to around 30% of our current water usage, is December 31, 2016, barely three years away. Cal Am needs approval soon in order to build and operate its project anywhere near that deadline.

The Coalition was also happy to its support to Mayor Ralph Rubio's motion that the MPWRA urge the PUC to size the water supply project such that our decades old supply crisis will be solved for the foreseeable future. After decades of wrangling that accomplished practically nothing, we may finally be on the verge of having enough water to supply our needs for economic recovery of the hospitality industry, to supply water to lots of record for owners who have waited decades for enough water to build a house, and to supply the general plan needs of the six Peninsula cities and the unincorporated areas served by Cal Am.

The Coalition will be represented when the PUC's hearings begin in May – and we will fight for a sustainable, sufficient, stable, safe and secure water supply. It is finally within sight!